

Message Text

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SUBJECT: ECLA MEETING ON POPULATION

REF: MEXICO 2026

BEGIN SUMMARY

1. SECOND ECLA MEETING ON POPULATION ENDED MARCH 7 WITH ADOPTION BY ACCLAMATION OF CONFERENCE REPORT CONTAINING 30 PAGES (58 PARAGRAPHS) OF CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS. MARIO MOYA PALENCIA, CONFERENCE PRESIDENT AND MEXICO'S MINISTER OF INTERIOR, IN CLOSING SPEECH URGED DELEGATIONS TO CONSIDER FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAMS AS IMPORTANT PART OF GENERAL SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. COMPROMISE LANGUAGE IN REFERENCES TO CERDS PERMITTED US JOIN IN CONSENSUS. AMB. JOVA'S SPEECHES SUPPORTING CONFERENCE AND WORLD PLANO OF ACTION AND EXPLAINING U.S. POSITION ON CERDS WERE NOTED FAVORABLY BY MANY DELEGATIONS. U.K. ASSOCIATED ITSELF IN PLENARY WITH U.S. POSITION, CANADA, FRANCE, NETHERLANDS REMAINING MUTE. MEETING ADVANCED AWARENESS OF POPULATION COMPONENT OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROBLEMS ANOTHER STEP FORWARD. AT SPECIAL SESSION MARCH 7 MEMBERS AGREED CELADE'S INTEGRATION WITH ECLA. END SUMMARY.

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2. THE ISSUE OF CERDS. USDEL MARCH 6 GOT FIRST INDICATION OF THREE SPECIFIC REFERENCES TO CERDS IN DRAFT CONFERENCE REPORT ON CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS. THANKS TO HELPFUL ATTITUDES AND LANGUAGE SUGGESTIONS OF IO, ARA, AND L (ESPECIALLY TELECONS BETWEEN BOWDLER, ARA, POOLE, IO/CMD AND AMBASSADOR AND NELSON) AND CONCILIATORY ATTITUDE OF MEXICAN DRAFTING TEAM (GALLASTEGUI, UNDER SECRETARY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS, AND ARMANDARIS, MEXICAN AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE TO THE FAO), COMPROMISE LANGUAGE AGREED TO. THESE PARAGRAPH WERE PRESENTED TO THE PLENARY BY MEXICAN DELEGATES AS AMENDMENTS TO THE CONFERENCE REPORT IN ORDER TO OBTAIN CONSENSUS. AFTER A FIFTEEN MINUTE BREAK TO STUDY AMENDMENTS THEY WERE ADOPTED BY ACCLAMATION ON THE MOTION OF URUGUAY, SECONDED BY COLOMBIA.

3. US SPEECH OF EXPLANATION. IN DRAMATIC MOMENT OF GOODWILL AND CONCILIATION DELEGATIONS RESOUNDINGLY APPLAUDED AMBASSADOR JOVA'S SPEECH EXPLAINING U.S. POSITION ON CONFERENCE RESULTS WHICH INCORPORATED DEPARTMENT'S LANGUAGE ON CERDS IN KEY OPERATIONAL PARAGRAPH. THE BULK OF THE SPEECH EMPHASIZED POSITIVE HUMANISTIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF CONVERENCE, SKILL AND LEADERSHIP OF DELEGATES AND HAD ADEQUATE CONTENT OF LATIN STYLE SCHMALTZ TO ENCAPSULATE AND MAKE PALATABLE THE DEPARTMENT'S MESSAGE ON CERDS. U.K. DELEGATE ASSOCIATED SELF WITH U.S. EXPLANATION OF VOTE. ALTHOUGH HE HAD SPOKEN TO CANADIANS, NETHERLANDS AND FRENCH DELS AND WE HAD PROVIDED THEM WITH COPIES OF OUR STATEMENT, THESE DELEGATIONS REMAINED MUTE.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS. FINAL ECLA DOCUMENT REAFFIRMS WPPA AND URGES MEMBER STATES TO PROGRESS IN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION (MORE MULTILATERAL ASSISTANCE) AND IN AREAS OF DOMESTIC CONCERN, ESPECIALLY TRAINING, RESEARCH, INTEGRATION OF WOMEN, STATISTICAL INFORMATION (BOTH BIO-MEDICAL AND SOCIAL) AND TO EXTENDING SCOPE OF FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES. MUCH EMPHASIS ON INTERACTION OF POPULATION AND ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, AND ALSO STRESS ON SOVEREIGNTY OF NATIONS AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS OF FREE CHOICE OF INDIVIDUALS IN FAMILY PLANNING. SECTIONS ON MIGRATION ADHERE CLOSELY TO WPPA, ALTHOUGH CUBAN-INSPIRED RECOMMENDATION URGES ECLA STUDY COMPENSATION FOR "BRAIN DRAIN." FOR FIRST TIME IN LATIN AMERICAN CONTEXT, CONSENSUS REACHED THAT PROVISIONS FAMILY PLANNING INFORMATION AND SERVICES ARE IN THEMSELVES NECESSARY AND IMPORTANT PARTS OF BROADER DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS. DISCUSSIONS ALSO STRESSED

OTHER ASPECTS OF POPULATION DYNAMICS INCLUDING INFLUENCES OF HEALTH, HOUSING AND EMPLOYMENT.

4. CONFERENCE DYNAMICS. ECLA CONSULTATION FELL FAR SHORT OF SHOWING URGENCY ON POPULATION GROWTH PROBLEMS DISPLAYED AT ESCAP MEETING IN BANGKOK JANUARY 14-20. OBVIOUSLY LA DYNAMICS ARE DIFFERENT FROM THOSE OF EA, HOWEVER, ECLA MEETING IS REAL ADVANCE IN INCREASING AWARENESS OF HEMISPHERIC POPULATION PROBLEMS. MORE COUNTRIES NOW REALIZE THEY MUST LOOK TO THEIR OWN HOUSES AND NOT BLAME OUTSIDE "SCAPEGOAT" - IMPERIALISM -- FOR THEIR PROBLEMS. ADVANCE BEYOND BUCHAREST WPPA WAS NOT OPPOSED BY ANY DELEGATION; BUT SPECIFICS WERE NEGOTIABLE. ARGENTINA AND BRAZIL CONSISTENTLY SUPPORTED MORE MULTILATERAL INVOLVEMENT IN POPULATION PROGRAMS, BUT EMPHASIZED NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY. ALL CONCURRED. MEXICO'S BALANCED AND CONCERNED VIEWS THAT BENEFITS OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT ARE ATTENUATED BY HIGH POPULATION GROWTH RATES WERE SHARED BY COLOMBIA, COSTA RICA, BARBADOS, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, GUATEMALA AND JAMAICA WITH OTHER COUNTRIES SOMEWHERE IN BETWEEN. CUBA PLAYED SURPRISINGLY MODERATE AND HELPFUL ROLE, EXCEPT FOR TWO POLEMICAL OUTBURSTS IN WORKING GROUP. ITS MINISTER OF HEALTH JOSE A. GUTIERREZ MUNIZ GAVE CANDID AND INFORMATIVE REVIEW OF CUBA'S FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAMS. IN WORKING GROUP CUBAN DELEGATES CONSISTENTLY SUPPORTED PROPOSALS FOR MORE REGIONAL AND MULTILATERAL INVOLVEMENT IN POPULATION PROGRAMS. MINISTER GUTIERREZ WAS OUTGOING AND FRIENDLY WITH U.S. DEL AND HE AND RAVENHOLT HAD TWO USEFUL EXCHANGES OF VIEWS ON PROBLEMS OF MUTUAL INTEREST IN FAMILY PLANNING FIELD. PERU, URUGUAY, AND VENEZUELA SAID VIRTUALLY NOTHING IN EITHER PLENARY OR WORKING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GROUP MEETINGS; PANAMA, ECUADOR, AND EL SALVADOR GENERALLY FOLLOWED MIDDLE COURSE. ENGLISH SPEAKING COUNTRIES FELT SOMEWHAT ISOLATED, BUT THIS IS NOTHING NEW IN ECLA MEETINGS.

5. INTEGRATION OF CELADE INTO ECLA. CONFERENCE SUPPORTED MERGER OF LATIN AMERICAN DEMOGRAPHIC CENTER (CELADE) INTO ECLA ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE DURING SPECIAL SESSION MARCH 7. HOWEVER, MUCH CONCERN WAS EXPRESSED OVER GROWING REGIONAL UN BUREAUCRACY (LED BY BRAZIL) AND OVER PRECISE WORKING RELATIONSHIP OF CELADE TO ECLA AND TO POPULATION DIVISION OF ECLA. ECLA/CELADE PRESENTATION OF PROPOSED INTEGRATION WAS NOT WELL PREPARED AND MANY ADMINISTRATIVE LEGAL-FINANCIAL PROBLEMS MUST BE RESOLVED BEFORE FINAL ACTION AT NEXT ECLA MEETING

IN PORT OF SPAIN.

6. U.S. ROLE. AS REPORTED U.S. STATEMENT WAS WELL RECEIVED, AND LOW-KEY AND DISCREET POSITIONS FAVORABLY COMMENTED ON. MOST CRITICISM DIRECTED AT US, BEFORE AMBASSADOR'S CLOSING SPEECH, CONCERNED INFLEXIBILITY ON CERDS AND N.I.E.O. IN WORKING GROUP, WE GENERALLY WENT ALONG WITH LESS SPECIFIC NATURE OF MOST RECOMMENDATIONS, BUT IN IMPORTANT EXTENSION OF WPPA WERE INSTRUMENTAL IN GETTING GROUP TO ADOPT FOLLOWING LANGUAGE RECOMMENDING THAT COUNTRIES(LIKE ARGENTINA, BRAZIL AND URUGUAY) "WISHING TO PROMOTE FERTILITY SHOULD NOT LIMIT FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES OR ACCESS TO MEANS OF BIRTH CONTROL AS A MEANS OF ACHIEVING THEIR DEMOGRAPHIC OBJECTIVES." WE WERE SURPRISED ARGENTINA DID NOT OBJECT TO THIS PROVISION (PARA 12 OF CONFERENCE REPORT). DOUBT MANY MORE SPECIFIC INSERTIONS COULD BE ACHIEVED GIVEN CONFERENCE DYNAMICS, HOWEVER, U.S. EFFORT WAS WEAKENED BY LARGE AMOUNT OF TIME SPENT TRYING MODERATE REFERENCES TO CERDS. JOVA

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